

Appl. No. 10/076,340  
Response to 1<sup>st</sup> Office Action dated 06/15/2006  
Reply to Office Action of 03/15/2006

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the two paragraphs on page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 28 with the following paragraphs.

As is well known, SCSI is a commonly used industry standard protocol for storage devices. Using the SCSI protocol, drive control commands and data are sent to the drives. Responses and status messages, as well as data read from the devices, are passed through SCSI controllers. In a system supporting iSCSI, a user or software application issues a command to store or retrieve data on a SCSI storage device. The request is processed by the operating system and is converted to one or more SCSI commands that are then passed to an application program or to a card. The command and data are encapsulated by representing them as a serial string of bytes preceded by iSCSI headers. The encapsulated data is then passed to a TCP/IP layer that breaks it into packets suitable for transfer over the network. If required, the encapsulated data can also be encrypted for transfer over an insecure network. The packets are sent over the network or the Internet.

At the receiving storage controller, the packets are recombined and, if necessary, decrypted into the original encapsulated SCSI commands and data. The storage controller then uses the iSCSI headers to send the SCSI control commands and data to the appropriate drive, which performs the functions that were requested by the original computer or application. If a request for data has been sent, the data is retrieved from the drive, encapsulated and returned to the requesting computer. The entire process is transparent to the user.

In any event, due to the volume of data that may be being transacted, a higher data transfer rate may be convenient. Thus, what is needed is a method and apparatus to ~~beeter~~ boost the data transfer rate.

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